

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the Official Action of August 24, 2004, relating to the above-identified application. The claims in the case are: 1, 2, 4, 6-8 and 10.

The specification has been amended to insert the definition of the deacidification index and, therefore, it is believed that the objection to the disclosure has been overcome.

Claim 7 has also been amended and, therefore, it is believed that the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is overcome.

It will be noted that Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of Claims 3 and 5 in an effort to expedite the prosecution of the application and place the application in condition for allowance.

It is noted that the Office Action did not acknowledge the IDS filed with the application on December 8, 2003. Applicants request that the next Office Action acknowledge the IDS.

The rejection of Claims 1, 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Clasen* (US 4,680,047) is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 5 which has been indicated in the Official Action as being allowable. Applicant believes that the rejection of Claims 1, 4 and 8 have now been overcome and, therefore, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Since Claims 4 and 8 depend on Claim 1, it is believed that Claims 4 and 8 are also in condition for allowance.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Chandross* (US 5,240,488) is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 5 and is, therefore, believed to be in

condition for allowance. Similarly, since Claims 2, 4 and 8 depend on Claim 1, these claims, too, are believed to be in condition for allowance and such favorable action is requested.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as anticipated by *Yoon* (US 6,299,822) is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 5 and, therefore, is believed to be in condition for allowance since the Official Action indicates that the subject matter of Claim 5 is allowable. Claims 2, 4 and 8 should also be in condition for allowance since they depend on Claim 1.

The rejection of Claim 10, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated or rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), in view of *Clasen* (US 4,680,047) and *Chandross* (US 5,240,488) is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Official Action has not pointed out that the process described in either *Clasen* or *Chandross* is so similar to the process as defined in Claim 1, as amended, so as to raise a presumption that the resulting products of the respective processes would be either identical or very similar. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection fails to state a sufficient ground for rejecting Claim 10.

The rejection of Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), or in the alternative, in view of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over *Yoon* (US 6,299,822) is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Although *Yoon* shows a method for preparing a glass body, the Official Action has not pointed out that the *Yoon* process is so closely related to the process as defined in Claim 1 as amended that it is likely that the resulting product of *Yoon* would be the same or very similar to

the products obtained by applicants' process. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the Official Action fails to state a proper basis upon which to reject Claim 10, as anticipated or rendered obvious.

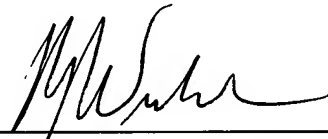
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The indication of allowable subject matter as to Claims 3, 5 and 7 is appreciated.

Favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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